

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman Planning Commission Meeting **Special Meeting:** 7/21/2021
Observer Reporting: Jessica D. Cassleman **Duration of meeting:** 7:01 – 8:33PM
The meeting was held remotely due to COVID 19.

Members Present: Dave Gibney (Chair), John Anderson (Vice-chair), Brent Carper, Marcia Gossard, Scott Hodge, Bob Olsen, Scott Vik.

Members Absent: Joe O'Callaghan, Stephanie Rink

Others Present (e.g., media, public): RJ Lott (Pullman Planning Director), Cynthia Goodwater (City Administrative Specialist), Jonathan Morales (Berk), Lisa Grueter (Consultant _ Berk),
Public: Allison Munch-Rotollo, Marilyn XX, Alex Hammond, Bobbie Ryder, Jessica D Cassleman (LWV observer).

Items discussed:

1. Review of the City of Pullman Comprehensive Plan
2. Discussion on Downtown Plan

Additional comments/opinions:

While completing the review of the Comprehensive Plan some items were brought up as important for further discussion and include transportation items, North Bypass Hwy, involvement of Pullman Public Works Department and Whitman County Public Works. City Council should be aware of these items for further discussion.

Topics brought up as important to consider further:

- **Trestle bridge and pedestrian/bike paths.** Taxes should cover these costs.
- Sustainable, renewable vehicles, **different modes of transportation** should be considered.
- Enforce complete **helipad standards:** enforce, monitor, publicize. Complete **street standards.**
- **Mandatory street permits on College Hill**
- Discussed **Historic preservation** as very important but also protect Historic resources and districts.
- Bobbie Ryder brought up **North bypass:** no intention to establish one – funds from federal monies.

1. Review of the City of Pullman Comprehensive Plan

Continue discussion on **Appendices** that will be looked at for accuracy.

Appendix A: Consider waiting for census results; continue to monitor and review demographic data.

Appendix B: only enter Pullman, not Palouse, or Idaho, regarding jobs, employers, etc.

Appendix C: Economic indicators: need city budget.

Discuss a potential Public Hearing before the August 11th meeting.

Final draft will be on city website.

2. Discussion of Downtown Plan

Needs to go through the Planning Commission.

RJ thanked everyone on the 10-year effort. Top priority ahead of Comprehensive Plan.

The Commission would like to have a public hearing and decide on what is appropriate. Needs to go through RJ's hands by October so City Council can read and give approval.

Several members of the Commission and the community had an exchange on the importance of having a public hearing. City wants to hear of possible red flags, but eager to get it done and implement plan by the end of the year.

Bob is disappointed that the plan has not moved at all since last year and it seems that the Council does not want to make changes. Council would like to see “chapter by chapter” but not a “line by line” conversation.

Council only wants general recommendations and have a public hearing. Laurie will offer information on next steps.

Bobbie indicated that the public never had an opportunity to see or hear about the plan.

RJ is concerned that this is being pushed and Gibney feels city is not doing this correctly. It is required by law and needs to follow formality but left too little time.

Bobbie indicated that there were two public hearings at Gladish earlier but without input and then it was published. Only heard from the steering committee but not from the design committee.

RJ suggests that the Council does not need comments since it is up to them to move forward.

There is a requirement that the plan needs to go through the Planning Commission, but a public hearing is not required.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM

Next meeting of the Commission – 7/28/21 Regular Meeting

Submitted, August 2, 2021